

# THE REFORMER PLANET

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RICHMOND

## HE SHOT TO KILL! TERRIBLE TRAGEDY AT TRUE REFORMERS' BANK. ATTEMPTED BURGLARY.

WATCHMAN WARD USED THE RIOT GUN—THE CORONER'S JURY—CASE DISMISSED  
IN THE POLICE COURT—THE DEAD MAN BORE A GOOD REPUTATION.

Quite a sensation was caused in this city last Sunday morning by the killing of Emmett Steward, colored, while attempting to rob the True Reformers' Savings Bank. He was shot by Mr. Joseph Ward, the watchman who was armed with a Winchester riot gun.

**TWELVE BALLS STRUCK HIM.**  
Twelve buck-shot entered the back of the man, two of which went through his body to the other side and were cut out from under the skin.

He stood in the gutter when shot, having just emerged from the window of the bank with one of the bank guns in his hands.

**A FRANKLIN STREET BUTLER.**

At the time of his death he was employed as butler at the residence of Mr. Stewart, 612 W. Franklin St., and when Mr. Price went there to ask for him Sunday morning the people thought that he was in his room.

He has hitherto borne a good reputation. He was at one time driver for Mr. Bossieux and at another time worked for Mrs. A. J. Pyle, who gave him a good recommendation.

**PHOTOGRAPHED ON APRIL 18TH.**

He had his photograph taken April 13, 1904 at the Old Dominion Photograph Gallery.

The inquest was held at 3:30 p. m., at the Second Police station.

The outside pane of glass at the Bank had been broken and also one of the inside panes. The wicket had been pried open.

The following is the testimony as given before the Coroner's jury:

**BROOKS SMITH'S STATEMENT.**

Brooks Smith, colored, was sworn and deposed.

"I live at 1109 St. Paul St. I was at the Metropolitan Laundry, corner 2nd and Leigh Sts., last night at about 2:30 o'clock when I heard a gun fire at the True Reformers' Bank on 2nd St., between Leigh and Jackson Sts."

The watchman came running to me and asked me to tell Mr. Ellis, the Vice-President of the Bank to come to the Bank right away. I notified Mr. Ellis. I went over to the bank and saw the man lying near the gutter on 2nd St., in front of the Bank. He was not seen dead.

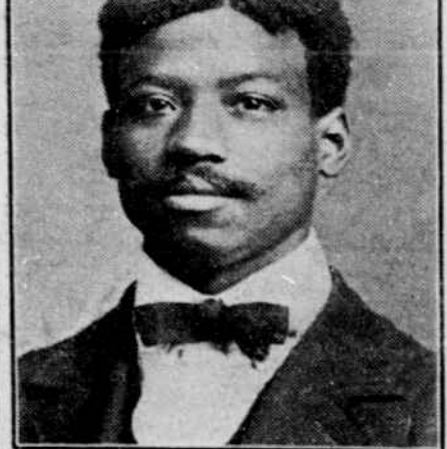
There was a gun lying on his arm. I noticed nothing else.

The man did not say anything. I saw the watchman standing by the man. The watchman said that he caught the man in the Bank. He told him to halt and he would not, but drew a gun on him and he shot him.

from the gutter in front of the True Reformers' Bank.

When I got there some men were standing there. I was not the first one there.

When I saw the gun some one else



EMMETT STEWARD.

had it. I saw him lying there and the watchman said he shot him."

**JOSEPH WARD'S STATEMENT.**

Joseph Ward, night watchman, was sworn and deposed.

"I live at 617 N. 2nd St. I am the private watchman at the Savings Bank, Grand Fountain, U. O., of True Reformers."

I was sitting in the Finance Department last night, 608 N. 2nd St., down stairs at 20 minutes to 2 o'clock when I heard a noise towards the Bank.

I crept out into the hallway. It seems that the man was moving about. Then I came back into the corner of the room in which I had seen the light in the Bank was turned down dim. I raised the window and saw a man crossing between me and the dim light. There was a window there through which I could see a man going towards the front door of the Bank.

I ran and got the riot gun which was in the corner of the room in which I was sitting and went around to the front door which leads into 2nd St.

I saw a man coming out of the Bank window into 2nd St. I hollowed, halt! He then threw up gun and pointed the gun at me. We were about 30 feet apart. He never got closer. I fired one time. He went about two or three feet and fell. When I fired he was crossing the gutter.

He had his gun up when he shot him. He was bearing off sideways to me when I shot him. He did not speak. I went over to the man and called a young man and told him to tell Mr. Ellis to come down there.

He got his gun out of the Bank in the corner. The gun stays there all of the time. The gun sets up side the hat-rack near the vault.

His hat was lying on a shelf in the Bank. His hat was lying where it seems he attempted to go through a door and he went back and went through the wicket. The door was evidently locked.

**Many Viewed the Remains.**

The remains of the colored man, Emmett Steward, who was shot by watchman Joseph Ward were conveyed to Mr. Price's undertaking establishment, 214 E. Leigh St., where crowds viewed his remains.

He had nothing in his possession with which to commit a burglary. In his pockets were found fifteen cents, a few matches and a piece of watch chain.

There were no cuts or bruises on his body. It is reported that soon after the shooting two other men were seen running away.

**MANY RECOGNIZED HIM.**

Many men recognized Steward. He was said to be all right save when he drank too much liquor, but it was the universal verdict that he was the last man that would be suspected of committing or attempting to commit a burglary. He had never been before the courts here upon any charge and his employer, who is a member of the Corporation Commission speaks of him in the highest terms.

**TRUE REFORMERS BURIED HIM.**

He was unmarried and his mother has not been heard from. The True Reformers decided to bear the expense of his burial.

Joseph Ward was bailed by Judge Witt Sunday evening in the sum of \$500.00 and on Monday morning Police Justice Crutchfield, after hearing the evidence dismissed the case.

—See Reformers' ad. and circular. They lead in prices.

**WANTED—10 Coppers, 10 Rollers and 50 Steamers for Hannibal, Canada, A. J. Rison & Reynolds, 119 Market St., Danville, Va.**

**PYTHIANS ENTER BLACKSTONE.**

**Mr. H. L. Jackson is Deputy.**  
Blackstone, Va., April 12th, 1904.—A new lodge, Knights of Pythias, N. A., S. E. R. & A. A. was instituted here last night at Jackson's Hall by Grand Chancellor John Mitchell, Jr., assisted by Col. E. R. Jefferson, P. C. James S. Forrester and Sir William Custale of Richmond and Capt. H. S. Keen of Danville.

The party arrived early in the evening and Grand Chancellor Mitchell and Sir Wm. Custale were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Jackson, where they were royally entertained.

Miss Alice G. Johnson of Boston, the accomplished pianist played selection after selection to the entire satisfaction of the visitors.

The entire party were outspoken in their praise of the enterprise of Mr. H. L. Jackson. His spacious hall, located in a substantial brick dwelling of two stories is lighted by electricity.

It was here that the initiation took place. Mr. Jackson is one of the wealthiest colored men in this section and his appointment as Deputy Grand Chancellor will serve to popularize the order in this section.

At the close of the initiation refreshments were served and speech making was indulged in. The new lodge will be known as Blackstone Lodge, No. 70. The following are the officers: O. C., A. A. Fitzgerald; V. O., Charles Taylor; P., Eddie Winston; M. of W., H. L. Jackson; M. of R. and S., W. H. Fitzgerald; M. of F., R. M. Sagnall; M. of Exchequer, G. M. Jackson, M. at A. Frank Tucker; I. G., J. D. Clarke; O. G., Charles Coleman.

**THE JIM CROW STREET-CAR.**

**Colored People Walk—Few Persons on the Cars—White Passenger Arrested.**

The "Jim Crow" Street-car law went into effect Wednesday, April 20th, 1904, and the absence of the colored people is a most noticeable feature. The colored people are showing the company that they have no desire to intrude themselves, even upon public carriers when they are not wanted.

A large number of white people are objecting to the law and numbers of white persons have assured colored ones that they regard it as a wanton and unnecessary discrimination against them. Some wagons carrying colored people were seen on the streets Wednesday. A colored woman walked from Fulton up to 2d and Leigh streets and then went back again.

A white man, named Mr. Myers, contractor and builder of Fulton was arrested for violating the regulations of the company, but no colored person at this writing has been arrested for similar conduct. The Richmond, Va., Times Dispatch in its issue of the 21st inst. says:

"The law worked rather stiffly yesterday, as most new things do. The hard working conductors, endeavoring with courtesy to keep things running smoothly, had to make voluminous explanations to many. The majority of those who rode good-naturedly obeyed the directions given. Not a few were angry, and some permitted their anger to express itself in words. One man refused absolutely to move when told, and rather than to do so alighted from the car and walked the remainder of the distance."

Colored people now walk to work. Others "get a lift" on drays, teamsters and furniture wagons, etc., and the trip costs them nothing.

**Another Court in Norfolk.**

Norfolk, Va., April 14th, 1904.—Grand Worthy Counselor John Mitchell Jr., reached here last night over the C. & O. route. He met Deputy Grand Chancellor, T. J. Pree, who met him at Newport News and accompanied him to Norfolk.

He instituted a Court of Calaneo here, but assisted Lily of the Valley Court in the initiation of some candidates.

In the Court initiation, he was assisted by Deputy Grand Worthy Counselor Emma Cherry, Mrs. Sylvia Mitchell and others.

The following sisters are the officers of the new court which will be known as Norfolk Court: W. C. Sarah Stedman, W. Inspector, Jane Conaway, S. D., Mary Miller, J. D., Sarah Dixon; O. Emma L. Johnson, R. of D. Annie J. Jackson, R. of A. Mary E. Gordon, R. of D. Margaret Pinner, E. Maggie Skinner; Conductress; Pinkie Chappell, Asst. Conductress; Henrietta Miles, H. Mary Lee; P. Nancy Chappell; Trustees: Rosa Rose, Celia Walker.

Refreshments were served in abundance. This Court was organized through the efforts of Mrs. Fannie Cook, the Special Deputy Grand Worthy Counselor.

Mrs. Mary N. Gray was also present and rendered assistance, Grand Worthy Counselor Mitchell left this morning for Richmond.

**FORTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY.**  
A Grand Time Promised—Rev. White to Deliver Sermon.

The True Reformers' Hall was packed last Tuesday night with colored people, who even lined the aisles and stairways to attend the mass-meeting of citizens held for the purpose of making a dignified and conservative protest against the action of the Virginia Passenger and Power Company in making racial discrimination upon its lines in Richmond, Manchester and Petersburg.

It was 9 o'clock when Editor John Mitchell, Jr., of the PLANET called the meeting to order. Prayer was offered by Rev. L. A. Carter.

Editor Mitchell stated the object of the meeting and announced that the first business would be the election of a chairman. Mr. George St. Julien Stephens nominated the present incumbent. Dr. R. E. Jones assumed the chair and put the question with the result that John Mitchell, Jr., was unanimously elected. Dr. Charles E. Wilder was elected secretary.

**THE OBJECT STATED.**

Mr. Mitchell related the circumstances leading up to the recent conference of citizens at Price's Hall, Thursday, April 14th and its decision to call this mass meeting, and announced that it would be in order to approve or ratify the action of the conference. This was carried. He then reviewed the situation, declaring that the law passed by the recent legislature with reference to the street-cars did not require that the separation be made. It was left to the street-car companies entirely. They would have passed the law if they could decline to do so. The law was not in operation in any city in the state.

He counseled peace and declared that the primary motive for the mass-meeting was to promote harmony between the races and to avert any trouble which might arise as the result of the enforcement of this unnecessary legislation. The colored people of Richmond were peaceable, law-abiding and self-respecting.

**NO DEMAND FOR THE CHANGE.**

There was no general demand on the part of the white people for this law. If there had been, our own city council would have passed the measure. It was the arbitrary act of the Virginia Passenger and Power Company.

General Manager Huff could suspend the operation of the law on a moment's notice or he could enforce it. This showed that the company on its own motion had put into effect this humiliating regulation.

He warned those who would ride to obey the law, but the safest and best place for the colored people was the side-walk and he advised all of them to walk and avoid trouble.

He then discussed the rules and regulations of the company as published in the Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch of Sunday morning, declaring that if a conductor had a grudge against a colored man, he could keep him moving in a trip from the West End to the Post Office to such an extent that when he arrived at his destination, he would be as tired as though he had walked the entire distance.

He stated that the evident intention of the regulation was to goad the colored people into resistance, and to cause them to commit some overt act which would be construed into a disposition on their part to over-ride the law.

**CAN CARRY REVOLVERS.**

He showed that under the provisions of the law that the white boys and ill-mannered men, many of whom since the strike were now in charge of the street-cars were empowered to carry revolvers and if they shot down colored men, they could not be punished for so doing.

He showed that under the law, a man could be made to assist a conductor in the arrest of his own wife or the lady whom he might be accompanying, provided the conductor was of the opinion that she had violated the rules of the company.

**STAY OFF THE CARS.**  
He declared that the only safe plan was to stay off the cars and avoid trouble. It was never possible to tell when some thoughtless colored man might become involved in an altercation and it would be the same as touching a match to a powder magazine with its consequent slaughter.

## CITIZENS PROTEST.

Will Not Ride on the Street-Cars. Peace and Harmony Between the Races.

OUTSPOKEN, BUT CONSERVATIVE—WANT NO TROUBLE HERE.

AN UNNECESSARY INNOVATION—COLORED PEOPLE OF RICHMOND ORDERLY.

**LAW NOT COMPULSORY.**

The speaker was repeatedly applauded. Many had been of the opinion that the law was similar to the steam car law but Editor Mitchell declared and challenged a contention that the legislature had passed no law compelling the street-car company to separate the white and colored passengers.

**COLORED BANKER—PLEDGE SUPPORT.**

A sensation was caused when Chairman Mitchell announced that the Presidents and cashiers of the four colored Banks, and representing an aggregate capital of \$180,000 had met Friday, April 15th, 1904 and pledged their personal and financial support to any movement having for its purpose the transit of the colored people who must ride from one section of the city to the other. The following are the resolutions:

We, the undersigned, officials of the four regularly incorporated Negro Banks of the city of Richmond, viz: The Savings Bank, Grand Fountain, U. O. of T. R., Nickel Savings Bank, Mechanics' Savings Bank and the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank, having viewed with alarm the promulgation of the legalized order, clothing the conductors on our street railway system with the power to arbitrarily separate the passengers according to their race and color which power is liable to create ill feeling between the races and precipitate trouble between citizens, otherwise peaceable and orderly, we desire to emphasize the fact that we stand for law and order and advise our people who ride on the cars of said corporation to obey such rules and regulations as may have been announced.

We realize, however, that to ride on these cars is liable to produce friction and some thoughtless member of the traveling party in a moment of aggravation might commit some overt act that may cause trouble and to place us in the light of attempting to over-ride the laws of the commonwealth.

For this reason alone, if no other, we see a source of trouble in street car travel and we note that some of our citizens seem to believe it necessary that some mode of locomotion should be provided in order to minimize friction and avoid trouble.

We, therefore, pledge our personal and official influence to the support of any movement looking to the transit of any and all persons who may ride and have no other means of reaching their respective destinations; provided that any such movement shall have for its sole purpose a desire to promote harmony between the races and peace and good-will among the white and colored citizens of this community in which we live.

Provided further that no such movement shall have for its purpose the injury of the Virginia Passenger and Power Co., or the interference with the traffic on any of its lines.

**Signed:**  
W. J. TAYLOR, President, Savings Bank, G. F. U. O. of T. R.  
R. T. HILL, Cashier.  
R. F. TANCIL.

President, Nickel Savings Bank, E. A. WASHINGTON, Cashier.  
JOHN H. HARRIS, Jr., President, Mechanics' Savings Bank.  
THOMAS H. WYATT, Cashier.  
MAGGIE L. WALKER, President, St. Luke Penny Savings Bank.  
EMMETT O. BURKE, Cashier.

**A COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.**

Lawyer J. R. Pollard moved that a committee on resolutions be appointed. This was carried and the following persons were named: R. E. Jones, M. D., chairman, J. R. Pollard, H. F. Jonathan, R. T. Hill, Thomas H. Wyatt, E. A. Washington and H. L. Harris, M.D. The committee retired. Mr. Hill was unable to be present being in attendance at the section-owners meeting.

Mr. W. W. Fields arose and made a characteristic address, urged the colored people to stay off the cars. He made many good points and was applauded from time to time. He advised conservatism and recommended salt water baths for the feet as providing a convenient and satisfactory means of

adapting them to the return to the habit of walking.

Mr. Evangelist Jackson spoke in favor of walking and in behalf of the plans and purposes of the Young Man's Olive League.

**A LADY'S VOICE.**

Mrs. Patsie K. Anderson's advice given in terse, explicit language was to do no talking, but walk, walk, walk. She carried the house by storm and sauntered amidst great applause.

Mr. A. J. Smith, Jr., spoke. Mr. James Patterson was accorded further explanation of the measure. Mr. Geo. St. Julien Stephens called attention to the representative character of the meeting, declaring that there were present: Bankers, lawyers, business men, College professors, in fact people from every walk of life.

He was thoroughly aroused and as he made point after point he was enthusiastically applauded. He advised all to walk.

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.**

The meeting was one of the most orderly and conservative ever held in this city. A recess of five minutes was taken and later the committee on resolutions made the following report:

"Whereas, the legislature of Virginia has enacted a law permitting the street railway companies to separate the passengers on the basis of the color, the enforcement of which enactment is not compulsory, but is left to the action of the company, and

"Whereas, we deem the enactment of such a law as a hardship upon our race and calculated to do irreparable harm by making it possible to provoke unnecessary clashes between the races, and

"Whereas, we deem the enactment of such a law as unnecessary and unwarranted in view of the relation which exists between the races in this State; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we, the citizens of Richmond, in mass-meeting assembled, enter our solemn protest against the enforcement of this law by any and all public service corporations, recognizing as we do that the enforcement of the law in question is left to the option of such companies."

**Signed:**  
R. E. JONES, Chairman,  
H. L. HARRIS, Secretary,  
H. F. JONATHAN,  
J. R. POLLARD,  
E. A. WASHINGTON,  
THOMAS H. WYATT,  
Committee.

—Read ad. of Reformers' store in this issue. It will be of much profit to house-keepers.

**ANOTHER NEW LODGE IN PETERSBURG.**

**BURG.**

**A Jolly Party From Richmond.**

Petersburg, Va., April 19th, 1904.—Grand Chancellor John Mitchell, Jr., arrived here last evening at about 5 o'clock accompanied by Col. Thomas M. Crump, Past Chancellors James S. Forrester, W. E. Mitchell, Capt. Thomas H. Wyatt, Capt. W. Henry Jones, Capt. John G. Smith, Sir William Custale, Col. D. A. Ferguson, Col. E. R. Jefferson came over earlier. They instituted a lodge of Knights of Pythias, N. A., S. A., E. A., A. & A., at Brown's Hall.

The following are the officers of the new lodge which will be known as Imperial Lodge No. 71: O. C., Jesse McLin; M. of W., William Alexander; V. O., Walter Stokes; K. of R. and S., John T. Worrell; M. of F., W. G. Rawlings; M. of Exchequer, James M. Wilkerson; E., Madison Lowmy; M. at A., Thomas Taylor; I. G., John Bland; O. G., John McLin; Attache, James E. Smith; Robert Sparlock; Walter Oretch; Green T. Briggs.

Trustees: Geo. Lundy, Stephen Tatum, Thos. Day. Mr. A. Fowles of Richmond was present. At the conclusion of the initiation ceremonies, the party repaired to Wilkerson's Hall, where a bounteous repast was spread and amiable and entertaining ladies served the delicacies of the season.